



# ALPENGLOW

## VISITOR GUIDE



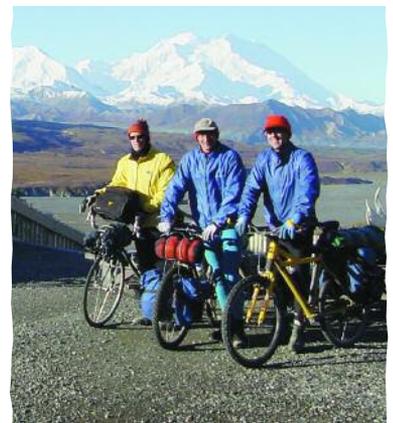
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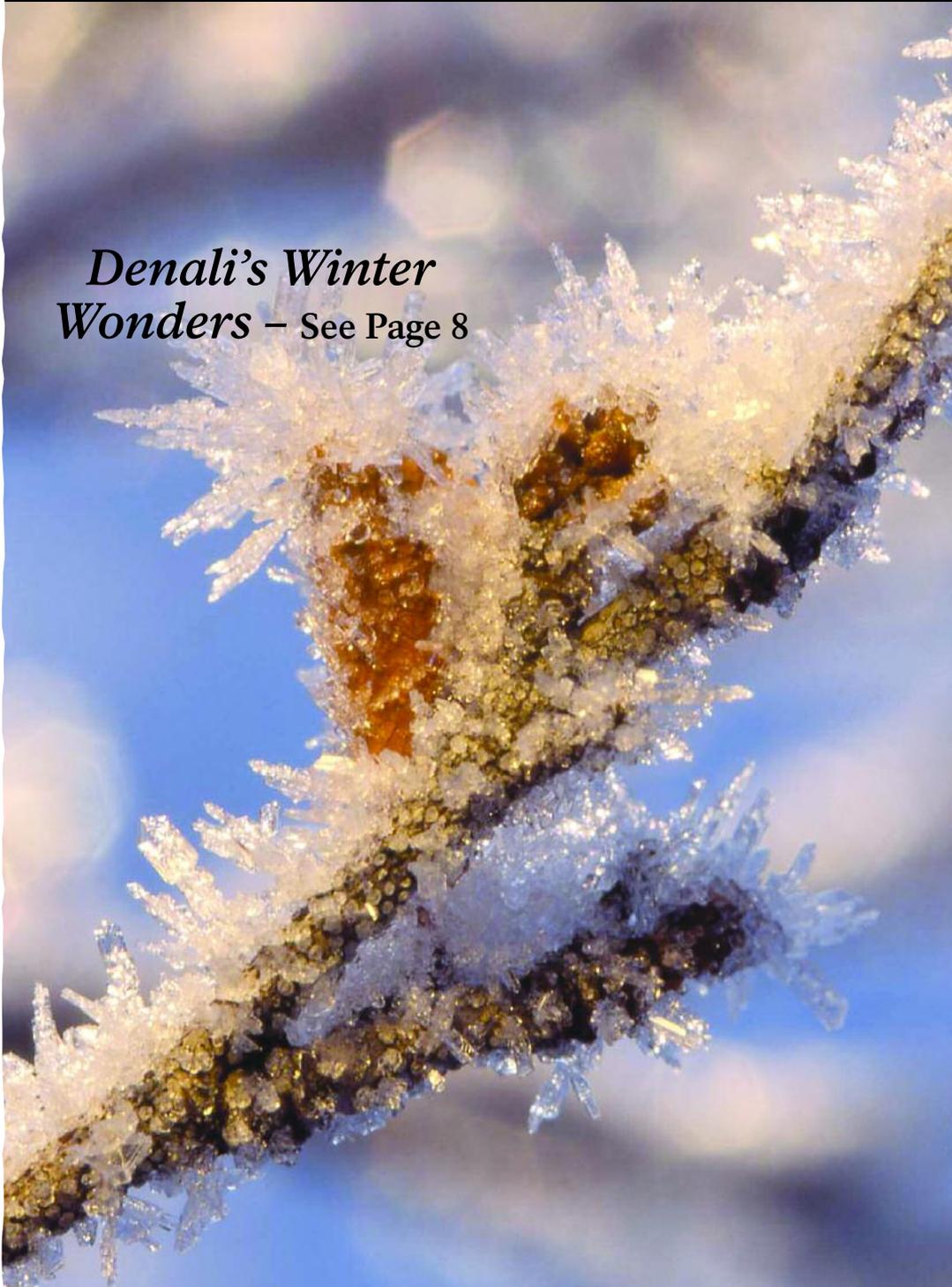
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Paul Anderson prepares for a winter trek.

*"You don't live there all winter do you?"*

(Yes, we do.) "But, what is there to do in the wintertime in Denali? Isn't the park closed in winter?"

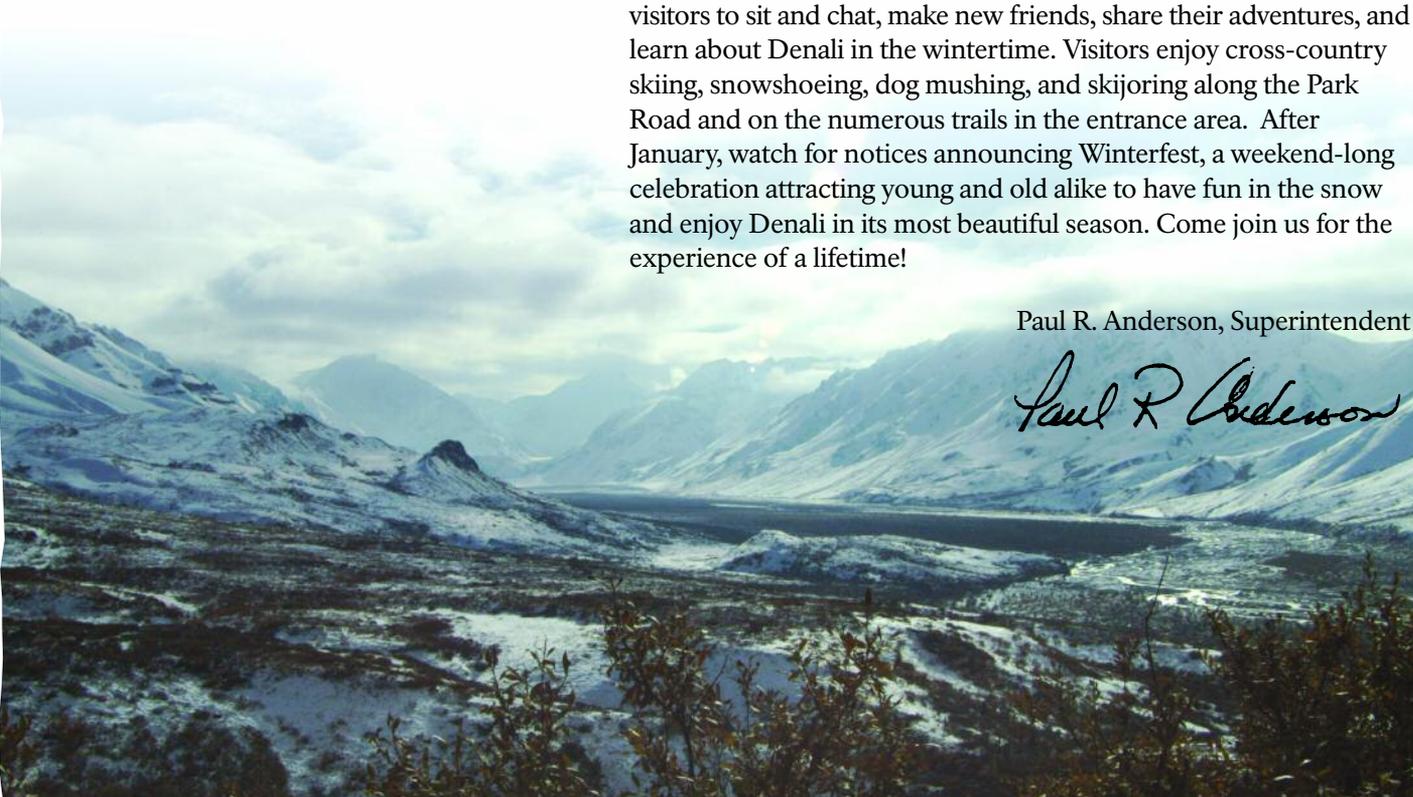
The park is open year-round and there is plenty to do here in winter, as you'll see by reading the great articles in this *Alpenglow!* As snow blankets the landscape and darkness rules the days, park employees stay very busy caring for the park, and for our winter visitors. Though we have fewer visitors, we use this slower time to do our planning for next summer, and for the future of this special place. This winter we are finishing exhibit planning for the new Eielson Visitor Center, which is scheduled to open in 2008. We are also planning next season's field studies that will help determine future vehicle limits on the Park Road. The studies will quantify the impacts of traffic volume and patterns on plants, wildlife, physical resources, and visitors. This information will help us make the best decisions to maintain high-quality visitor experience while protecting park resources for this and future generations of Americans.

In winter, activities are centered at the new Murie Science and Learning Center, our Winter Visitor Center. A warm fire invites visitors to sit and chat, make new friends, share their adventures, and learn about Denali in the wintertime. Visitors enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog mushing, and skijoring along the Park Road and on the numerous trails in the entrance area. After January, watch for notices announcing Winterfest, a weekend-long celebration attracting young and old alike to have fun in the snow and enjoy Denali in its most beautiful season. Come join us for the experience of a lifetime!

Paul R. Anderson, Superintendent

*Paul R. Anderson*

Cover Photos: Hoar Frost ©Mike Giannechini  
Sled Dog ©Denali National Park Kennels  
Aurora Borealis ©Mike Giannechini  
Cyclists ©National Park Service photo by Gregg Bailey



National Park Service photo

# Winterfest 2007

## Come Celebrate Winter in Denali



National Park Service photo

Ice Carver Carl Eady poses next to his ice art.

- \* evening presentations
- \* dog mushing demonstrations
- \* skijor, classical, and skate ski clinics
- \* ski tours
- \* avalanche safety training
- \* winter ecology walk
- \* snowshoe walks
- \* snow sculpture contest
- \* ice carving demonstration
- \* events for kids
- \* and much more!

All Winterfest activities and programs are free. Food and lodging are available in the local area communities of Healy and Cantwell. Riley Creek Campground is open to visitors wishing to camp; however, campers are advised that the water and sewer utilities have been shut down for the winter.

Winterfest is sponsored in part by the National Park Service together with the Denali Foundation, Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture, and the Alaska Natural History Association. For dates, times and other information, please call 907-683-2294 or visit [www.nps.gov/dena](http://www.nps.gov/dena).

## Common Animal Tracks

Some birds brave the cold, snowy climate to remain year-round residents.



Raven



Ptarmigan



Great-Horned Owl

Look for grizzly tracks in the spring when bears are coming out of hibernation.



Grizzly Bear

These mammal tracks are commonly seen throughout the park in winter.



Caribou



Snowshoe Hare



Moose



Wolf



Lynx

# What to do in the Winter



## Viewing the Aurora

Some Alaska Native groups believed that the northern lights were caused by spirits playing ball games in the sky. Early explorers believed them to be the reflection of sunlight off the polar ice caps. Modern research reveals that northern lights occur when charged particles from the sun interact with the Earth's magnetic field, 50 to 100 miles above the Earth's surface. The best time to watch the aurora is from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## Skijoring

Consider the joy of skiing. Imagine the thrill of dog mushing. Combine these and you have skijoring, in which skiers harness dog power to the delight of both. Skijoring now enjoys a popularity all its own but traces its roots to Scandinavia, where it developed as a way to train dogs for Nordic-style mushing teams.

## Skiing

Cross-country skiing is a peaceful, rewarding way to explore Denali, whether on an afternoon trip on sled dog trails along the Park Road or on an extended trip into the backcountry. Local creeks such as Riley and Hines (see map back page) freeze up, becoming ideal winter routes for accessing the park on skis. Telemark skiing and snowboarding involve long climbs on foot, but are becoming increasingly popular in Denali.

## Watching Wildlife

Although bears, marmots and ground squirrels cope with winter by sleeping or hibernating, the rest of the park's year-round residents are active throughout the winter. Moose frequent riparian areas with plentiful willow for browsing, while Dall sheep search for food on high ridges where the wind blows away the snow cover. The best evidence of animal activity is found in tracks left in the snow, where the daily drama of the struggle for survival is recorded for all to see.

## There's Wildlife in Winter Too

- These are minimum distance restrictions. Any distance that alters the behavior of an animal is too close.
- Maintain the distance rules at all times.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times such as when they are nesting, mating or raising young.

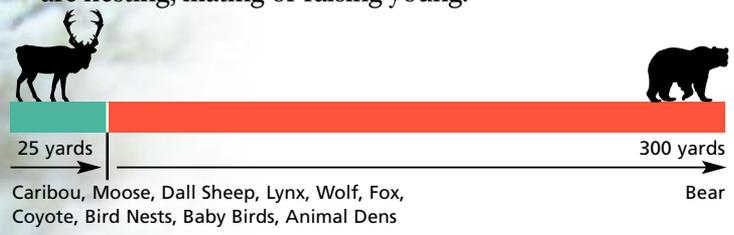


Photo ©Bob Buterfield



## Snowmachining

Snowmachine use is allowed in the 1980 park additions for traditional activities such as hunting and trapping (where those activities are legal). Snowmachine use is not allowed in the old Mount McKinley National Park, which includes the Park Road. Contact the park directly for further clarification.

## Snowshoeing

A popular recreational activity today, snowshoeing was an essential part of winter living for many northern Native groups. Locally, birch wood was split and bent to form the frame, upon which were woven thin strips of moose hide, or babiche. Historically, as today, different lengths of snowshoes served different purposes. A longer, flatter shoe is ideal for traveling in very deep snow, whereas a shorter shoe with an up-turned toe is better for traveling over an existing trail, across rougher terrain, or through brushy areas.

## Dog Mushing

Developed in the Native cultures of Canada, Greenland and Alaska, dog mushing was adopted by European explorers as the mode of transportation best suited to northern winter landscapes. Dog mushing continues to be an excellent way to explore remote wilderness regions like Denali. See page 10.

### For Day Trips:

- Stop by the Winter Visitor Center and talk to a ranger.
- Check for activities such as hikes or talks.
- Search the surrounding forest for signs of wildlife activity.

### For Extended Trips:

- Obtain a backcountry permit at the Winter Visitor Center.
- Notify someone of your plans and your expected return date.
- Consult with park rangers for an update on conditions.
- Be prepared to set your own course and be self-sufficient.

Photo ©Denali National Park Kennels



# Other Seasons

## Late Fall/Early Winter

(mid-September to mid-October)

When the road closes in the fall and bus engines are silent for the winter, hiking remains a possibility as long as there is no snow. The road generally remains open to Savage River or Teklanika until the first snow, and hikers may set out from anywhere along this stretch of road, except closed wildlife areas.

Be aware that lack of snow is no indication of temperature; be prepared for winter's arrival anytime, and for extreme cold after mid-October.

## Break-Up

(April to mid-May)

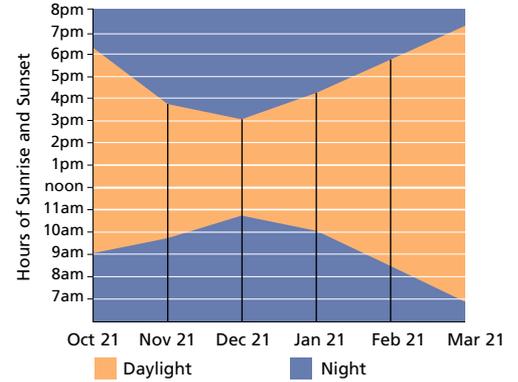
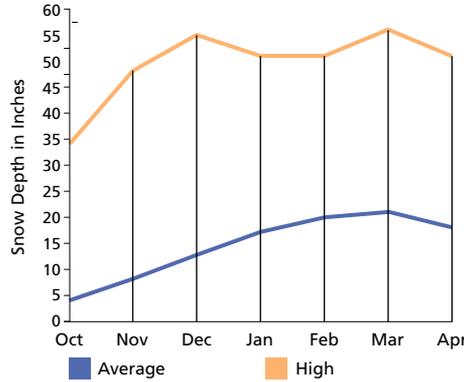
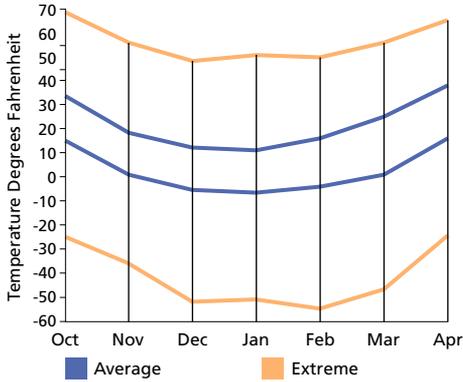
The road is being plowed but is not yet open for motor vehicle traffic; river ice is breaking up, rendering rivers and creeks impassable; and snow can be too mushy for travel.

Skiers and snowshoers may often find favorable snow conditions at higher elevations, particularly once the road opens to Savage River or Teklanika. Mushers and skijorers generally hang up the harnesses until next winter. Hikers and bicyclists can enjoy the closed-but-plowed portions of the Park Road.

# Winter Conditions

Winter weather in Denali can be extreme, and proximity to the Alaska Range creates unpredictable and highly variable conditions. Many winter visitors are unprepared for the reality of deep, lasting cold weather.

The following measurements are provided as general reference only. They were taken at Denali National Park Headquarters, which is often milder than much of the park.



# Safety Concerns

**Traveling alone** increases your risk dramatically. Any incident which immobilizes a solo traveler could easily become fatal. Traveling in groups is recommended.

**Avalanches** result from a combination of snowpack, weather, and terrain factors which are frequently present in Denali backcountry. Be aware of the dangers and avoid suspect slopes and drainages.

**Frostbite** occurs quickly at temperatures below freezing. Drink plenty of water and protect skin from exposure to cold.

**Overconfidence** can be the biggest danger. Be aware of the exertion required to travel in snow. Do not count on going more than a few miles each day.

**Overflow, thin ice, and weak snow bridges** along streams and rivers can cause an unexpected icy plunge. Carry dry socks, clothes, and emergency firestarter in a waterproof container.

**Hypothermia**, the critical lowering of the body's core temperature, is signaled by these early symptoms: shivering, numbness, slurred speech, loss of coordination, drowsiness, and exhaustion. Avoid hypothermia by eating plenty of high-calorie foods, drinking plenty of water, and staying dry. Layer clothing for your level of activity to minimize sweating.

**Moose** may fiercely guard winter trails, particularly in deep snow years. Make every effort to give moose the right-of-way.

# Winter Trekking

There are no groomed trails in Denali. Visitors should be self-reliant, able to scout their own routes and find their own way back. Nevertheless, there are numerous unmarked routes suitable for snowshoeing, skiing, skijoring, and mushing.

## Novice: Park Road

Unplowed past Park Headquarters, the road is an excellent route into the park, and the best alternative when snow levels are too low to cover natural hazards elsewhere. The Riley Creek Campground Loop and roadside multi-use path also serve the novice well.

## Intermediate: Sled Dog Trail

From Park Headquarters all the way to Wonder Lake, this approximately 85-mile trail runs parallel to and often joins the Park Road.

## Advanced: Backcountry

Look for other routes that wander across ridgelines and along creek valleys such as Riley, Hines, Rock, and Triple lakes. Be careful: winds or sudden snowstorms may quickly erase even well-established tracks. Routes are not marked. Winter visitors must rely on their own navigational ability.

## Emergencies

**Developed Areas:** Dial 911. Be prepared to give your location as Denali National Park and Preserve.

**Backcountry:** There are no phones west of Park Headquarters and cell phone service is unreliable. In late winter, a ranger is stationed at Wonder Lake Ranger Station. Rangers do not initiate searches without a specific request. Notify someone of your planned itinerary and expected time of return. Self-reliance and ability to self-rescue are essential.

## Backcountry Planning

**Backcountry Permits** for overnight use are available at the Winter Visitor Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. seven days a week, excluding holidays. Backcountry permits are free and required for all overnight use.

**Dogs** must be in harness or staked out at all times in order to minimize disturbance to wildlife. Dog feces should be scattered away from water sources and your camp.

**Leave No Trace** practices should be followed at all times within the park.

- ❖ Camp at least 100 feet from water sources and developed areas.
- ❖ Although winter fires are permitted using dead and down wood, camp stoves are recommended as down wood is scarce. Cutting green boughs for bedding is not allowed.
- ❖ Dispose of human waste at least 100 feet from water sources and developed areas.
- ❖ Pack out all trash, including toilet paper.

## What to Bring

The level of self-reliance required of winter travelers sets Denali's visitors apart from adventurers elsewhere. Visitors should take the cold seriously and arrive prepared with quality gear and the knowledge of how to use it.

- Clothing**
- ❖ Wind gear and neck gaiter
  - ❖ Cold-weather parka with hood
  - ❖ Wool/fleece pants and shirt
  - ❖ Wool/fleece jacket and hat
  - ❖ Balaclava or other face mask
  - ❖ Wool/fleece mittens and gloves
  - ❖ Long underwear
  - ❖ Wool/synthetic socks (plus extras)
  - ❖ Cold-weather boots and gaiters

- Camping**
- ❖ Four-season tent
  - ❖ Winter sleeping bag and sleeping pad
  - ❖ Drinking cup
  - ❖ Cooking gear and utensils
  - ❖ Stove and fuel
  - ❖ Candle lantern
  - ❖ Personal care items
  - ❖ Snow shovel and snow saw

- Trail Items**
- ❖ Plenty of high-calorie food
  - ❖ Ski gear, snowshoes, or other travel gear
  - ❖ Pack with water-resistant cover
  - ❖ Map and compass
  - ❖ Pocketknife
  - ❖ Headlamp with extra batteries and bulb
  - ❖ Water bottles and insulator
  - ❖ Thermos
  - ❖ Chemical hand warmers
  - ❖ Sunscreen and sunglasses
  - ❖ Toilet paper and spade

- Emergency Items**
- ❖ Lighter, matches (waterproof container)
  - ❖ First-aid kit
  - ❖ Repair kit
  - ❖ Extra food, clothing
  - ❖ Avalanche beacon and shovel



National Park Service photo

# Wonders of Denali's Winter Weather

By Pam Sousanes

The muted colors of the winter sunrise paint the sky in oranges and purples. It's 10:35 a.m. and the thermometer outside the window reads 35° below zero. This valley bottom might be cold, but if you climb the hill, the temperature could be 10 to 15° warmer. Because cold air sinks, winter temperature inversions are common. The temperature can hover below zero for days or sometimes weeks, but in time we will get a south wind—a Chinook—that will bring warm moist air from the Gulf of Alaska. When these winds begin to blow, temperatures can rise as much as 70 degrees in a matter of hours.



National Park Service photo

Monthly snow surveys.

The coldest months of winter are December and January. Not coincidentally, this is when we have the least amount of daylight. On December 21, the first day of winter, the sun will rise at 10:46 a.m. and set at 3:03 p.m., giving us only four hours and 17 minutes of possible daylight. The azimuth of the sun at this

time of year is very low due to the Earth's tilt away from the sun. It will not rise above eye level all day. If you happen to live where there are mountains to the south, the sun may be hidden from you for a month or two.

The snow crunches as the bond between snow crystals breaks with every step. Icicles form on your eyelashes. You pull your hat on tighter—you're warm because you dressed for the cold. Animals that are year-round residents of the park have adapted to this environment as well. Larger animals exposed to conditions above snow must adapt their behavior, feeding habits, and morphology accordingly. Snowshoe hares and ptarmigan change from brown



National Park Service photo by Steve Buskirk

Snowshoe hare eating bark.



to white to blend in with the snowy environment, which offers better protection from predators. One interesting phenomenon of the subarctic is the survival of the wood frog, the only amphibian that lives at these high latitudes. The wood frog winters below the snow as a living ice cube. It keeps its cells unfrozen by moving water out and glucose in, allowing the water to freeze in the spaces between the cells.

If you are a small animal or plant, one of the key factors helping you to survive is snow. In the subnivean world, meaning beneath the snow, organisms and soil rely on the insulating capacity of snow for heat retention. The snow cover maintains ground temperatures that can be as much as 30° higher than air temperatures found above the snow. It also covers and protects low-lying plants, reducing drying from winter winds, and provides a world of tunnels for tiny rodents safe from the searching eyes (though not always the sharp ears) of predators. This seasonal snow cover, lasting up to eight months, is an important ecological factor for this ecosystem. Because of the important role of snow in the ecosystem, Denali scientists conduct monthly snow surveys from November through May to record the patterns of snow cover across the park.

Looking up from the snow at your feet to Denali's winter sky on a cold, clear night, you may be lucky enough to witness the spectacular color displays of the aurora borealis, also known as northern lights.



**Aurora borealis**

The amazing colors and formations are produced by the solar wind, a stream of electrons and protons coming from the sun, as it collides with oxygen and nitrogen atoms in the upper atmosphere. Pale green or white are the most common colors, but you may be lucky enough to witness pinks and deep purple-reds as well. And be on the lookout during daylight hours for another interesting phenomenon, sun halos. These colorful rings occur around the sun when light is refracted as it passes through ice crystals. There are many types of halos. One of special note is the parhelion or “sun dog.”

Sun dogs are luminous spots on both sides of the sun that occasionally occur with a halo.

After a few hours out in the winter weather, either trekking through the snow in the low winter sunlight or skiing along a darkened trail under the soft glow of northern lights, it's time for one of our human adaptations to this environment—a warm beverage in front of a fire in a cheerfully lighted cabin. Just outside, the quiet drama of survival in a northern environment carries on as it has for millennia. And tomorrow is another day full of winter wonders.

—Pam Sousanes has been working in Denali year-round since 1998. As an environmental specialist, she maintains 18 remote weather stations and manages the climate monitoring program for the Central Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network that includes over 21 million acres.





*A mushing trip through Denali allows visitors to connect with the living history of the park. It gives them the unique opportunity to step back in time and experience the hardships and rewards of wilderness travel as it was for the park's early residents and visitors.*

## *Mushing Denali - Traditional Travel*

Denali visitors can most closely approach the spirit of the park in winter on the back of a sled, behind a team of sled dogs. It is not an easy way to explore Denali, requiring both physical and mental energy and the desire to work as part of a team, yet the rewards are immeasurable. Sled dogs are the most enthusiastic of companions, reveling in the joy of running. Musherers are following the sled runners of the earliest park rangers, and those of the Native people who first inhabited this wild land.

On a good day following an established trail, the dogs may cover 30 miles or more while the musher mostly stands on the sled runners. But if a snowstorm dumps two feet of fresh snow and obliterates the trail, the musher must strap on snowshoes and break a trail for the team. It may take all day just to cover a few miles.

The National Park Service maintains a sled dog kennel at Denali, and rangers continue the tradition of dog team patrols that was started by the first rangers in the 1920s. In the early years, eliminating poaching was the primary function of winter patrols. Today's rangers contact winter visitors, assist in wildlife research, and haul supplies.

Despite often challenging conditions, a dog mushing trip in Denali remains full of intangible rewards. The scenic beauty of the Alaska Range in winter is without equal, and the bond between mushers and their dogs grows strong and deep as they face unforeseen challenges together.



Photo ©Denali National Park Kennels

## *Guided Mushing Trips*

Visitors who wish to explore Denali by dog team, but lack their own dogs, should consider booking a trip with one of the concessionaires permitted to run guided mushing trips into the park.

### **Denali West Lodge, Inc.**

Tonya Schlentner and Carol Schlentner  
P.O. Box 40  
Lake Minchumina, AK 99757  
888-607-5566  
www.denaliwest.com

### **EarthSong Lodge Dog Sled Adventures**

Jon Nierenberg  
P.O. Box 89  
Healy, AK 99743  
907-683-2863  
www.earthsonglodge.com

# Park Partners



For more information on Denali National Park and Preserve's wildlife, geology, trails, and history look to the Alaska Natural History Association. As the principal nonprofit educational partner of Denali, Alaska Natural History operates bookstores with an extensive collection of materials on the natural and cultural heritage of Denali National Park and Preserve. Your purchases support educational programs offered by park rangers, visitor center exhibits, volunteer programs, this visitor guide, and other services. Drop by the Denali bookstore located next to the new Denali Visitor Center.

Alaska Natural History also offers hands-on learning programs at the Murie Science and Learning Center through its institute. Visit [www.alaskanha.org/alaska-institutes.htm](http://www.alaskanha.org/alaska-institutes.htm).

Alaska Natural History partners with more than 30 public lands across Alaska. Members receive discounts on purchases made at bookstores throughout Alaska and on-line. For more information call 907-274-8440 or toll-free 866-AK PARKS, or visit us on the web at [www.alaskanha.org](http://www.alaskanha.org).

The Denali Foundation partners with the National Park Service through the Murie Science and Learning Center on educational programs for adults and children. Visit [www.denali.org](http://www.denali.org).



The Denali Borough School District provides technical support and equipment to Denali National Park and Preserve, has donated a state-of-the-art video conferencing unit for park use, and is a frequent partner in grant writing opportunities that make many park programs possible. Visit <http://denali.ak.schoolwebpages.com>

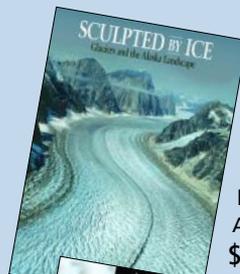
The University of Alaska partners with Denali National Park and Preserve in research and educational activities. For information visit [www.uaf.edu](http://www.uaf.edu).



The National Park Foundation provides support to parks throughout the United States, including Alaska. For more information visit [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)

Visit the bookstore in the Winter Visitor Center to find these useful guides. In addition to books, visitors will also find maps, journals, posters, field bags, and more.

## Planning Your Trip



### Sculpted By Ice: Glaciers and the Alaska Landscape

By Michael Collier  
Explore Alaska's glaciers on foot, by kayak, and from the air in this in-depth look at the geology and science of Alaska's ancient ice.  
\$19.95



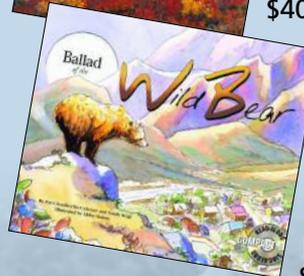
### Heartbeats of Denali

Narrated by Terry Tempest Williams  
View one of America's wildest landscapes and experience nature undisturbed.  
DVD 28 minutes  
\$14.95



### This Last Treasure: Alaska National Parklands

By The Alaska Natural History Association  
This new edition of the bestselling title is a keepsake for anyone who loves Alaska's national parks.  
\$40 hardcover, \$24.95 soft



### Ballad of the Wild Bear

By Pat Chamberlin-Calamar and Sandy Kogl  
Illustrated by Libby Hatton  
Learn how to keep bears wild and people safe in this beautifully illustrated and innovative picturebook.  
\$14.95, includes CD



Also available on-line at [www.alaskanha.org](http://www.alaskanha.org)

# Shuttle Destinations and Times

	Destination (Mileage)	Savage River (Mile 15)	Polychrome Overlook (Mile 47)	Toklat River (Mile 53)
What to See	Visitors are encouraged to get on and off the buses to explore the park. Anticipate waits up to one hour to re-board.	Savage River is the farthest that visitors can drive in their own vehicles on the Park Road. At this point there is a small parking area, picnic tables, restrooms and a trail. Visitors are encouraged to take the shuttle as parking is limited.	Polychrome Overlook gets its name from the multi-colored bluffs in the area. Spectacular views of the Alaska Range are also possible.	Toklat River is an area of merging glacial rivers and towering cliffs. Dall sheep are often seen and grizzlies sometimes graze the riverbed's soapberries.
Roundtrip Time		2 hours roundtrip	5-1/2 hours roundtrip	6 hours roundtrip

## Shuttle Buses

**Shuttle Buses** are for transportation and wildlife viewing. Passengers may get off along the Park Road and re-board later buses (west of mile 20) on a space available basis with a ticket for that day. Expect waits of up to one hour.

**Children:** Young adults age 15-17 are half price and under 14 ride free, but still need a reservation. Children under 4 years and/or 40 pounds must be in a carseat to ride on buses. Please make arrangements to bring your own carseat.

**Bring** plenty of food, water, and dress in layers. You may also want to bring field guides, binoculars, and a camera.

**Wheelchair Accessible Buses** are available. Please advise staff of your needs when you make your reservation.

**Refund Policy:** There is a cancellation fee for each shuttle bus seat and/or campground site. Cancellations must be made two hours prior to the departure of the bus. This fee also applies to any changes made to existing reservations, but will not apply to reservations for children under 14.

**Dates of Operation:** May 19 through September 13, 2007, weather permitting.

**Prices** can be found at [www.nps.gov/dena](http://www.nps.gov/dena) or by calling 800-622-7275.

**For Reservations and Information**  
Call 800-622-7275 or 907-272-7275  
Online at [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)

## Tour Buses

### *Tundra Wilderness Tour*

Wildlife viewing and narrated tour of the park to Toklat River (mile 53). Two departures daily: early morning or afternoon. A box lunch and hot beverage are served. Wheelchair accessible by pre-arrangement.

**Length of Tour:** 7 – 8 hours  
4 – 6 hours in shoulder season

**Dates of Operation:** May 19 through September 13, 2007, weather permitting.  
Shoulder Season: May 13 – 18 and September 14 – 17, weather permitting.

**For Reservations:** Call 800-622-7275 (Nationwide), 907-272-7275 (International and Anchorage)  
Online at [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)

**For More Information:** [www.nps.gov/dena](http://www.nps.gov/dena)

### *Natural History Tour*

Narrated tour of the park to Primrose Ridge (mile 17). Morning and afternoon departures available. A snack and beverage are provided. Wheelchair accessible by pre-arrangement.

**Length of Tour:** 4-1/2 – 5 hours

# Summer 2007

Fish Creek Turnaround* (Mile 64)	Wonder Lake* (Mile 85)	Kantishna* (Mile 90)	Camper Bus
Located among the rolling tundra hills of the Thorofare Valley, a trip to this turnaround point offers spectacular views of Mount McKinley on a clear day and ample opportunities to view wildlife.	Wonder Lake was created by the Muldrow Glacier. Along the road to Wonder Lake, alder and willow-carpeted hills are dotted with kettle ponds. Look for beaver along the way.	Kantishna is primarily a destination for lodge visitors and backpackers for backcountry access. Please respect the private lands in this area.	Transports campers and their gear. Sanctuary, Wonder Lake and backcountry units are accessible only by camper bus — reserve a seat when making a reservation. Camper bus passes are good for the entire time you are west of mile 20.
<b>8 hours roundtrip</b>	<b>11 hours roundtrip</b>	<b>13 hours roundtrip</b>	<b>Time dependent on destination</b>

\* Fish Creek bus service begins June 1; Wonder Lake and Kantishna begin June 8.

## Entrance Area Buses

Free buses service the entrance area where you will find the Wilderness Access Center, Riley Creek Campground and Mercantile, Denali Park Post Office, Railroad Depot, Denali Visitor Center, and the Murie Science and Learning Center.

**Dates of Operation:** May 19 through September 13, 2007, weather permitting.

**Wheelchair Accessible buses are available.**

Riley Creek Loop Bus	Dog Sled Demo Bus
Free transportation around the entrance area of the park. Loops continuously throughout the day, see schedule at bus stops and at the Denali Visitor Center. Board at Riley Creek Campground, the Wilderness Access Center, Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, and Murie Science and Learning Center.	Free, roundtrip transportation for each 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. dog demo. Board at the Denali Visitor Center 40 minutes before demo. No parking at kennels area. Mid-May to September 17, 2007. Times vary during shoulder season.
<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>10 minutes each way</b>
<b>FREE</b> No reservations needed	<b>FREE</b> No reservations needed



# Reservations for Shuttle Buses & Campsites

PHONE lines are open from February 15, 2007 through September 13, 2007; hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Alaska time (one hour behind Seattle). Tickets can be purchased by phone up until the day before travel and picked up at the Wilderness Access Center.

**1-800-622-7275 Nationwide**  
**1-907-272-7275 International**  
**272-7275 Anchorage**

ONLINE reservation service begins December 1 at [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)

FAX AND MAIL-IN service begins December 1 and continues through August 31 each year. FAX your request to 907-264-4684. Requests must be received no less than two days before travel. Download a fax form from Denali's Home Page at [www.nps.gov/dena](http://www.nps.gov/dena) to ensure you include all the necessary information.



MAIL your request to Doyon/ARAMARK, 241 West Ship Creek Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501. Requests must be received 30 days before travel date. Both fax and mail requests will be processed in the order received.

When faxing or mailing reservation requests, include the names and ages of each passenger, as youth discounts do apply.

It is always helpful to include alternative dates of travel. Please include an entrance fee of \$10.00 per individual or \$20.00 per family, or indicate the possession of a National Park Pass or a Golden Age/Access/Eagle passport and its number. Include credit card numbers (VISA, Mastercard, Discover, AMEX) and their expiration dates. Other payment options are personal check (received 10 working days in advance) or money order. Cancellation fees apply.

It is not necessary to check in if you have already received your tickets. You do need to be at the Wilderness Access Center back deck 15 minutes before the departure of your bus.

Prepaid, reserved tickets may be picked up at the Wilderness Access Center. Any unclaimed, prepaid tickets for buses departing before 7 a.m. may be picked up from the bus loading assistant. Bus drivers do not sell tickets.

## Reservation Refund Policy

There is a cancellation fee for each bus seat and/or campground site. Bus cancellations must be made at least two hours before departure time. Campground cancellations must be made by 5 p.m. the day of the reservation. A change fee is collected for any changes made to existing reservations.

# Campground Descriptions and Fees

Campground Name and Location	Season	Water	Facilities	Cost /Night Summer	Emergency	Reservations / Remarks
Riley Creek 1/4 mile west of Alaska Hwy. #3. RVs & tents	All year; limited facilities from Sept. - May	Yes (no water in winter)	Flush toilet	\$12.00 walk-in \$19.00 drive-in	Pay phone near bus stop; call 911	Make reservations in advance or at the Wilderness Access Center (WAC)
Savage River Mile 13, 33 sites for RVs and tents	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Flush toilet	\$18.00	Contact camp host or Park Headquarters	Make reservations in advance or at the WAC
Savage Group Mile 13, 3 sites	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Chemical toilet	\$40.00	Contact camp host or Park Headquarters	Make reservations in advance or at the WAC; store food in lockers
Sanctuary River Mile 23, 7 sites; tents only; no vehicles	May - Sept. Weather dependent	No	Chemical toilet	\$9.00*	Sanctuary Ranger Station	Make reservations at the WAC only
Teklanika River Mile 29, 53 sites for RVs; no tents	May - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Chemical toilet	\$16.00*	Contact camp host	Make reservations in advance or at the WAC
Wonder Lake Mile 85, 28 sites; tents only; no vehicles	June - Sept. Weather dependent	Yes	Flush toilet	\$16.00*	Contact camp host or Wonder Lake Ranger Station (2 mi. west)	Make reservations in advance or at the WAC

Prices are subject to change. 50% discount available with Golden Access Passport.

\* Prices do not include a non-refundable campground reservation fee of \$4.00. Cancellations must be made by 5:00 p.m. in order to receive a refund. Cancellation fee applies.

## Other Campgrounds

Please camp responsibly! Camping at unmanaged areas along the Parks Highway damages the environment. Garbage and illegal sewage discharge create problems for people and wildlife. A number of managed campground options are available that offer RV hookups, sewage disposal, tent camping, and food lockers. Thank you for protecting our environment!

Privately Owned Campground	Distance*	# Sites	Phone #
Waugaman Village	14 N	18	907-683-2737
McKinley RV and Campground	12 N	89	907-683-2379
Denali RV Park	8 N	85	907-683-1500
Denali Riverside Campground	3 N	98	888-778-7700
Denali Rainbow RV Camping	1 N	77	907-683-7777
Denali Grizzly Bear Cabins and Campground	6 S	89	907-683-2696
Carlo Creek Lodge	13 S	25	907-683-2576
Cantwell RV Park	27 S	76	800-940-2210

\* Miles from park entrance, North (N) or South (S)

I'd enjoy...	Shuttle Bus	Camper Bus	Natural History Tour	Tundra Wilderness Tour
... a hike	■			
... the flexibility to get on and off buses to explore on my own	■			
... going as far into the park as possible	■	■		
... accessing the backcountry for backpacking		■		
... staying at a campground in a tent	■	■		
... a bus tour with an interpretive naturalist			■	■
... a tour more focused on history and culture			■	
... looking for wildlife	■			■
... a morning trip that gets me back for the noon train to Anchorage.			■	
... a day trip that will get me back for the afternoon train to Fairbanks	■		■	■
... bicycling on the Park Road.		■		

## Murie Science and Learning Center

Situated in the entrance area of Denali National Park and Preserve, the Murie Science and Learning Center is dedicated to understanding and preserving the sub-arctic and arctic ecosystems and cultures within Alaska's national parks through research and education.

### Summer Field Seminars and Teacher Trainings

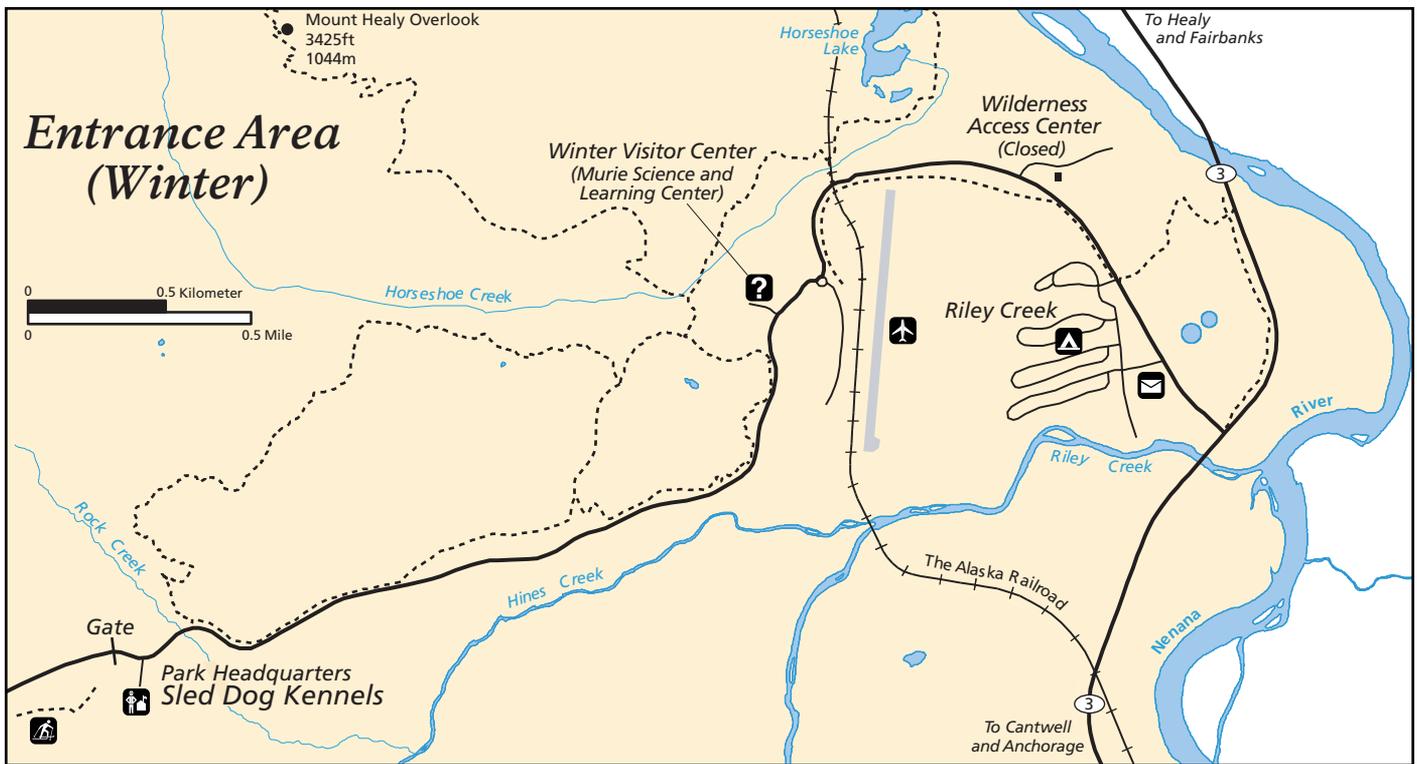
These small group interactive courses provide participants with an in-depth look into the Denali landscape. Courses begin at the Murie Science and Learning Center before heading out into the park to stay at a remote field camp. Instruction is provided by experts in the field on topics such as wildlife, biology, geology, wildflowers, and writing.

To find out more about our 2007 summer schedule please visit [www.denaliinstitute.org](http://www.denaliinstitute.org) or call 907-683-1269 or toll-free 888-688-1269



National Park Service photo by Kristen Friesen

A teacher discovers dinosaur footprints with paleoecologist Dr. Tony Fiorillo during a teacher training seminar.



## Where to Stay

**Riley Creek Campground**, located at the park entrance, is open for primitive camping in the Bear Loop area all winter. Registration is not required. Toilets are provided and barrels are on-site to dispose of dog feces. Snow can be melted or creek water boiled for drinking. Water is also available at The Murie Science and Learning Center (mile 1.3 on the Park Road). Winter camping is free.

**Local Accommodations** are offered year-round in Cantwell, 27 miles south, and Healy, 12 miles north of the park entrance. For more information on Healy area facilities, call the Greater Healy-Denali Chamber of Commerce at 907-683-4636. The nearest large grocery store is in Fairbanks, but both Healy and Cantwell have small convenience markets and gas stations. There is no rental equipment available in the Denali area.

## How to Get Here

### By Car:

Take Alaska Highway 3 south from Fairbanks or north from Anchorage to the park entrance at mile 237.

### By Train:

The Alaska Railroad arrives at the Denali Depot northbound on Saturdays and southbound on Sundays throughout the winter. Contact 800-544-0552 or 265-2494 in Anchorage.

### By Plane:

The Denali Park Airstrip is open for private, non-commercial planes on skis or wheels during the winter, although weather conditions and plow availability may mean that the airstrip is not plowed for wheeled landings at times. Parking is minimal. Please phone ahead to check on current conditions.

The Kantishna Airstrip at the west end of the Park Road is also potentially available for ski-equipped planes, but the strip is not maintained.

## For More Information

Denali National Park and Preserve  
 P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755  
 907-683-2294 or [denali\\_information@nps.gov](mailto:denali_information@nps.gov)  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

For topographical maps and other publications contact:  
 Alaska Natural History Association  
 P.O. Box 230, Denali Park, AK 99755  
 907-683-1272 or [www.alaskanha.org](http://www.alaskanha.org)

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